

DW10-141

From: robertsjohnston@comcast.net [mailto:robertsjohnston@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 8:43 PM
To: PUC
Subject: LRWC Petition for Consolidated Rates and Step Increase (DW 10-141)

To the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission:

I am writing in response to the Lakes Region Water Company's (LRWC's) petition for consolidated rates and a step increase (DW 10-141). The hearing is scheduled for 09/24/2010 at 10:00 AM. I can not attend due to the late arrival of my notice of the petition.

I am the owner of 130 Liberty Lane, Freedom NH, (Lake Ossipee Village). These are my concerns:

- The petition notice was received by me on 09/20/2010 - four days before the hearing. LRWC needs to give rate payers more notice so we can arrange our schedules to attend the hearing. I am assuming the notice was mailed late to discourage rate payers from attending the meeting. The notice arrived so late I can't even write a letter - I have to use e-mail - so my objections will arrive on time.
- Since LRWC has taken over the Lake Ossipee Village water system in late 2004 my rates have increased 223% from 2005 through 2010. In 2005 my annual rate was \$149.41 per year in 2010 it was \$482.61 per year an increase of 223%.
- Now we are told of two additional rate increases of 1) 38.32% for consolidation and another 2) 7.89% for a step increase. In total, this is a **49.2%** increase over the current rates (\$720.24 Vs. \$482.61) and a **382%** increase in my rates over six years (\$720.24 Vs. \$149.41) in an environment of **1%** inflation. This is unconscionable.
- LRWC keeps aggressively purchasing water utility companies in the lakes region at inflated prices and then passes on the acquisition costs to all of its rate payers. When will it stop? It's a great deal if you are the acquired water utility company or if your are LRWC but it is not a great deal for the rate payers. Every rate payer in each of their water districts has seen their water bills increase 200 plus percent since LWRC acquisition. It will not be long before all rates are over \$1,000 per year.
- This has to stop and I strongly urge the New Hampshire Public Utility Commission to stand up for the rate payers and reject these unreasonable rate increases in an environment of **1% inflation**.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Johnston
3 Tanglewood Rd.
Wellesley, MA 02481
robertsjohnston@comcast.net
(781) 239-3543 Home
(339) 613-7371 Cell

